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**NCQA Awards Unison Health Plan of Pennsylvania  
Highest Accreditation Status of Excellent**

Monroeville, PA (September 15, 2006) – Unison Health Plan of Pennsylvania announced today that it has been awarded an Accreditation status of Excellent from the National Committee for Quality Assurance (NCQA), an independent, non-profit organization that assesses and reports on the quality of the nation's managed care plans. Unison Health Plan's Accreditation status -- the highest possible level -- is based on a voluntary review of how a health plan ensures that its members are receiving high quality care.

“Achieving an accreditation status of Excellent is a significant achievement for a health plan,” said Margaret E. O’Kane, president of NCQA. “It is only awarded to those plans that both meet or exceed NCQA’s rigorous requirements for consumer protection and quality improvement and have HEDIS™\* results in the highest range of national performance.”

The NCQA Accreditation survey process includes on and off-site evaluations of over 60 standards and selected HEDIS™ performance measures conducted by a team of physicians and managed care experts. A national oversight committee of physicians analyzes the team’s finding and assigns an accreditation level based on the performance level of the plan being evaluated to NCQA’s standards.

“We are an organization committed to continuous quality improvement, and I believe that has been validated by NCQA,” said Lynn Aumer, Unison’s Quality Improvement Director. “Each of our employees, providers and management contributed to the NCQA Accreditation process in some way, so we are extremely proud of this achievement.”

“This Accreditation tells our members that the care they receive and the physicians who provide that care meet or exceed the industry’s highest standards of quality,” said Aumer. “Unison Health Plan has a long and proud tradition of providing high-quality care. Receiving objective recognition of that is rewarding for all of us.” The NCQA Accreditation process evaluates how well a health plan manages quality throughout every part of its delivery system -- physicians, hospitals, affiliated providers, and administrative services -- to continuously improve health care for its members. More than three-quarters of Americans enrolled in HMOs are in plans that have been reviewed by NCQA and many employers are now mandating accreditation of the plans they offer their employees. No comparable evaluation exists for fee-for-service health care.

\* HEDIS is a registered trademark of the National Committee for Quality Assurance (NCQA).

About Unison Health Plan

With years of steady growth, Unison Health Plan has become a leader in public sector health plans, serving more than 300,000 members and 15,000 providers in New Jersey, Ohio, Pennsylvania, South Carolina and Tennessee. Unison was ranked one of the top plans in the country among Medicaid companies by *U.S. News and World Report/NCQA America’s Best Health Plans 2005*. Unison provides high quality, cost effective health care and responsive customer service that empowers its members and providers to work together for better health.

For additional information visit [www.unisonhealthplan.com](http://www.unisonhealthplan.com).

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